[illegible] of L. Weekly News [illegible] a brief summary of [illegible] matters affecting labor, [illegible] the industrial, legislative, judicial fields, and such [illegible] that will benefit [illegible] labor movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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[illegible] NO. 39. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1920. WHOLE NO. 507.

PROPERTY CONCEPT, NOT LOGIC, SUPPORT "CAN'T-STRIKE" ADVOCATES.

[illegible] biased to property values would support "can't-[illegible]

[illegible] alert to logic, to moral values and to freedom [illegible] slavery, though its defense be sugar-coated. [illegible] of "can't-strike" advocates is apparent.

[illegible] business may cease to function because of loss [illegible] wage earners the right to cease work collec-[illegible] grievances.

[illegible] may close their plants and cause hardship to society; [illegible] withhold their commodity for higher prices, but if [illegible] manufacturers or coal owners suspend work they [illegible]

[illegible] withhold credit and cause factories to close, but when [illegible] living conditions they would be jailed because [illegible] 'conspired."

[illegible] and public utilities may impose unbearable [illegible], but when workers are forced to their last [illegible] they are to be branded as criminals by statutory [illegible] public opinion manufactured by those who [illegible] the men and women of toil.

[illegible] "can't-strike" advocate finds himself defending an [illegible] the kaiser.

[illegible] "can't-strike" advocate is not logical and he does not [illegible]

[illegible] Protect the dollar and make it grow, and [illegible] worker who interferes with it.

[illegible] but workers, No!

"Can't-strike" laws are as far removed from the [illegible] Roman slave holders and the feudal lord. [illegible] to a worker how he is held in bondage. [illegible] employment, he is not a free man.

[illegible] acknowledged his tyranny. In all ages he has [illegible] conceal his guilt and justify his wrongs. [illegible] has its lackeys, as did despots of old, to ladle [illegible]

[illegible] these footboys of privilege who talk of free-[illegible] would make bondmen of those who toil.

[illegible] Contract

[illegible] Collec- [illegible] Secretary [illegible] annual [illegible] agree [illegible] steady [illegible] wage [illegible] fairness [illegible] good faith [illegible] encourage [illegible] stands [illegible] bargaining [illegible] gentlemen's [illegible]

[illegible] A PROBLEM.

[illegible] Land own- [illegible] of young [illegible] the nation [illegible] of Agri- [illegible] annual re- [illegible] becoming [illegible] being made," [illegible] methods of [illegible] of improv- [illegible] adequate." They [illegible] soil de- [illegible] corrected will [illegible] affect our [illegible] encourage [illegible] tenants and [illegible] community [illegible] The cause of [illegible] squarely be- [illegible] so that its [illegible] generally recog- [illegible] done studies [illegible] must be [illegible] to completion."

[illegible] DECREASE.

[illegible] 18.—A sub- [illegible] industrial [illegible] injuries dur- [illegible] to 1918, is [illegible] the California [illegible] commission for [illegible] June 30, 1920. [illegible] 288 deaths, as [illegible] a reduction [illegible] injuries for [illegible] as against 2,- [illegible] of 288. The [illegible] 1919 numbered [illegible] 131,961 in 1918. [illegible] the number [illegible] permanent injuries, in [illegible] increase in tem- [illegible] insignificant, says [illegible]

[illegible] TRUST BUSTED.

[illegible] 18.—Institution [illegible] against five [illegible] farm implement [illegible] and dealers, and re- [illegible] the government's anti- [illegible] of the Interna- [illegible] company has been [illegible] the federal trade [illegible] a report to the [illegible] asserted that [illegible] inclusive, more than [illegible] manufacturing farm [illegible] to fix prices [illegible] dealers co-operating had [illegible] supporting the [illegible]

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

[illegible] Home, Tenn., Dec. 18.—[illegible] number of wage in- [illegible] improved working con- [illegible] listed in the current [illegible] American Pressman, offi- [illegible] of the International [illegible] Pressmen and Assistants' [illegible] Pittsburgh, Pa., these [illegible] increases reached $12 a week [illegible] platen pressmen and $11 for [illegible] pressmen.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN.

[illegible] City, Ill., Dec. 18.—Retail [illegible] union No. 980 has signed an [illegible] ment with store owners at this [illegible]

HOW STEEL TRUST WORKS.

New York, Dec. 18.—The hypocrisy of anti-union steel mill owners, who talk "open shop," was shown at a hearing by the joint legislative committee that is investigating the building trust.

Representatives of the George Fuller company and the Thompson-Starrett company—two of the largest construction companies in the United States—stated that they were unable to purchase structural steel direct because they operated under union conditions. They were refused steel by the American Bridge company, a unit of the steel trust, and by the Bethlehem Steel company, although they had made direct appeals to Charles Schwab of the latter concern. The constructors declared that they had been virtually driven out of the steel erection business because of their employment of union men.

This testimony may be interesting to those people who believed the claim made by the steel trust, last year, that the reason it opposed the steel strike was because of one man who was on the strike committee.

TRY PUSSYFOOTING

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—The claim that anti-unionists may put their flamboyant declarations in cold storage and resort to "smoother" methods is recalled by a Public Ledger article written by its Washington correspondent on President Gompers' letter to state federations of labor to call on the A. F. of L. for assistance against "can't-strike" legislation.

The trade union movement has resisted this kind of legislation since its formation in 1881, but this fact is ignored by the wily correspondent, who shows how the public is fed from realities by a flippant reference to wrong and by discussing individuals. This news gatherer says:

"The more radical elements of his affiliated organizations, Mr. Gompers knows, are after his scalp, and he is said to fear that unless he can convince the members of the federation that unity is vital to their interests and that their 'rights' are menaced, he will be placed in the background in federation affairs."

SHOE PRICES NOT JUSTIFIED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The recent announcement by officials of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union that wage reductions would be resisted, and that manufacturers have other ways to economize, recalls a report on the price of shoes made last year by the federal trade commission. In a report to congress the commission stated that the larger packers control the hide supply and have taken excessive profits and passed increased costs to subsequent steps in manufacture and distribution; that the tanner has taken exceptional profits; that the manufacturer of shoes has taken unusual margins and that the price charged by the retailer is not justifiable, each factor in the industry adding to the burden he had to bear before he passed it on to the next.

HIGHER TAXES URGED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In his annual report Secretary of the Treasury Houston recommends an increase from 4 per cent to 6 per cent in the tax on incomes of $5,000 or less. Under the present law an unmarried man must pay a 4 per cent tax on income above $1,000 annually, and a married man 4 per cent on income above $2,000 with $200 exemption for each child. It is now proposed to raise this tax to 6 per cent. Additional taxes are recommended for amusements, tobacco and candy.

NATIONS USE BOYCOTT.

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 18.—The league of nations' assembly has recommended that the league apply an international boycott against any nation member of the league that violates the league covenant or agreement. The assembly does not use the term "boycott" but has coined the very diplomatic and soothing phrase, "economic blockade."

LIVING COSTS IN ENGLAND.

London, England, Dec. 18.—The ministry of labor announces that the average level of retail prices (including those of food, clothing, fuel, lights, rents, etc.) was about 176 per cent above that of July, 1914, as compared with 164 per cent on October 1.

PROBE UNEMPLOYMENT.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of Labor Wilson announces that an unemployment probe in industrial centers will be made by the department of labor.

FALSE LAND VALUES DEPOPULATE FARMS

Baltimore, Dec. 18.—"An unhealthy situation" is the American economic league's reference to the census report that a majority of this country's people live in cities of over 2,500 inhabitants.

The league declares that the census "shows clearly enough that the high cost of living brings no advantage to the actual producer of food.

"Working farmers are going to the cities because it pays better to work in a factory than on the farm," says the league. "The cause of this is plain. In spite of the decline in agricultural population, rural land values are increasing. They have reached and passed the point beyond which profitable production can be carried on. The farmer cannot pay the exorbitant prices demanded for farm land and make enough to make a decent living for himself, after paying interest on the investment, taxes on all he produces and consumes and extortionate prices to transportation and other monopolies.

"Until that situation will be remedied, until the cause of the trouble shall be removed, the tendency to go from farm to city will probably continue, even though city workers have more than their share of hardship and trouble.

"The remedy is first of all to force the monoplists to let go who are holding valuable farm lands unused. This can be done by taxing land values enough to make holding without use unprofitable."

FAVOR WORLD COURT.

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 18.—The assembly of the league of nations, consisting of representatives of the two score nations that are members of the league, have recommended the establishment of a permanent international court of justice. The organization as planned, lacks the obligatory appearance of both parties to a dispute and provides no penalty for noncompliance with the decision of the court. The plan will now go to the different countries for ratification. If 22, or a majority of the members of the league, approve it before the next meeting of the assembly, the judges will be elected and the court will come into existence in September.

Representatives of Latin-America insisted on compulsory features in connection with the court, while France, England, Norway and Switzerland opposed the element of force.

As finally agreed to it is optional with nations whether they accept the jurisdiction of the court in all or any legal disputes between them and other nations. If they accept jurisdiction, they are pledged to accept the award. This plan was opposed by the larger nations.

BURLESON IS CORRECTED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—"A glaring missatement of fact" is President Gompers' reference to Postmaster General Burleson's claim, made in his annual report, that "postal employes have become bold because of this (A. F. of L.) affiliation and have, within recent years, threatened to strike and in one case actually did so by tendering their resignations and leaving the service in a body."

President Gompers said: "I challenge Mr. Burleson to specify a single instance where an affiliated organization of postal employes has threatened to strike."

The trade unionist pointed out that the case referred to by the postmaster general was at Fairmont, W. Va., where postal employes resigned in November, 1915. These employes were not members of an organization affiliated with the A. F. of L.

LOW BUSINESS STANDARDS.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 18.—Business men who advise organized labor how to conduct its affairs have a wide field for "uplifting" among their own kind, according to views expressed by J. F. Van Riper, fire insurance company official, in a speech in this city.

The speaker said fire companies are paying millions of dollars damages because of fires set by business men, who turned incendiaries to avoid paying their creditors.

"Everywhere throughout the United States I have found that the edge of business conscience has been dulled," he said. "This bodes ill for the future of business. The credit system has been rendered more complicated by the lower standards of business ethics prevailing nowadays." The speaker denounced the breaking of contracts by business men, which was referred to as "cancellation of orders."

URGE TENURE OF OFFICE.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—The California state federation of teachers will urge the coming legislature to pass a tenure-in-office law which will protect teachers from arbitrary dismissal. It is stated that the average school trustee is opposed to this plan. These trustees, many of whom are political accidents, believe they know more about education than the men and women who have made this subject a life study and look upon teachers as automatons.

BISBEE MOBBERS WIN.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The United states supreme court has upheld lower federal courts in quashing indictments against several members of the mob that deported 1,150 workers from Bisbee, Arizona, in July, 1917. The federal courts held that the indictments interfered with the police powers of Arizona and that federal statutes did not apply.

Arizona courts have dismissed indictments against the mobbers and the supreme court's decision closes federal courts to the victims.

MINERS AID CO-OPS.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 18.—Organized miners of this state have invested $125,000 in the central states co-operative wholesale society. The society retails to the numerous co-op. stores in Illinois and adjacent states. Its volume of business annually totals millions of dollars. The headquarters of the society is at East St. Louis, Ill., where it owns large warehouses, side tracks and other equipment.

STATE BODY FORMED.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 18.—Representatives of trade unions in this state affiliated with the A. F. of L. organized the Delaware state federation of labor. Matthew C. Ralston, a member of the Railway Car Men's union, was elected president.

COAL PROFITEERING "IS DISGRACEFUL"

Washington, Dec. 18.—Tremendous coal profiteering," "disgraceful and disastrous conditions" and "a national disgrace" are some of the indictments against coal owners in a preliminary statement by the senate committee on reconstruction.

The committee said there has been tremendous profiteering in coal and that the private interests in control of its production and distribution are unable to prevent a continuance of the "present deplorable situation."

The repudiation of contracts during the last six months, said the committee, has been the primary cause for the "disgraceful and disastrous conditions."

Senators Calder of New York, Edge of New Jersey and Kenyon of Iowa signed a supplemental statement in which remedial legislation is urged. The evils must be corrected, declared Senator Calder. Senator Kenyon declared that "if the matter is to go on, I, for one, harsh as the remedy may be, shall favor taking over the mines." Senator Edge said: "The coal industry cannot bring order out of the prevailing chaos and give even reasonable relief to the suffering people, so I am ready to modify somewhat, in this case, my opposition to government intrusion into private business and to legitimate scrutiny."

"Coal profiteering, especially as it has followed the priority orders of the interstate commerce commission, has continued unchecked by the department of justice and is a national disgrace," the committee said in its joint report. "Coal speculation has been permitted to monopolize the transportation facilities of the country, retarding necessary construction and increasing the basic cost of manufacture and distribution of commodities in general. It has bled the home owners, public utilities and industries."

MINERS STAND FAST.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 18.—"Governor Cornwall, at the expense of the taxpayers, makes another trip over to New York to appear before the members of the Southern society and commit more lies and slander against the most indispensable group of producers in West Virginia," says the West Virginia Federationist.

"He told his audience that 'order is going to be restored if it takes every man we can enroll in West Virginia and the United States army in the bargain.'

"What Cornwall meant in that declaration was: The miners will be driven back into the mines at the behest of the coal owners if it takes every professional thug and murderer we can enroll in the country and the United States army in the bargain.

"But the raving and lying of Cornwall will not break the spirit of the men in Mingo county. The time has passed when 49 coal owners, aided and abetted by a controlled governor, can set aside the will of the sovereign people."

The labor editor also declares that a federal investigation "will show up the connecting links between Cornwall, his cossacks, the Baldwin-Feltz thugs, the coal kings and the whisky runners."

SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS.

Washington, Dec. 18. — Between 300,000 and 400,000 children were deprived of schooling last year as a direct result of the shortage of teachers, according to estimates by P. P. Claxton, federal commissioner of education, in his annual report. No relief for the situation is seen by the educator, who added that while from 110,000 to possibly 150,000 new teachers would be needed during the coming year, "we shall have at the outside 30,000 prepared teachers to fill the vacancies, or a deficit of at least 80,000."

Of even greater moment than the actual shortage, the report said, is the increase in sub-standard instructors. More than half the 250,000 teachers of the nation, it added, are not prepared according to any reasonable standard for the work of teaching.

LABOR DEMANDS RELIEF.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 18.—President Freeman of the state federation of labor has refused to serve on a commission appointed by Governor Allen to patch up the Kansas compensation law, which is declared to be one of the poorest compensation acts in the country.

Kansas trade unionists are demanding the passage of a law along the lines of the Ohio act, which has driven liability companies out of that state. It is stated that Governor Allen does not favor this plan. He would retain the last century method of trafficking in the hurts and the deaths of wage workers, and President Freeman has refused to be a party to a continuance of this method.

MANY LETTERS HANDLED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In a publicity campaign in favor of early mailing, officers of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks say:

"Do you know that the postal service handles 1,500,000 letters every hour? Each letter, in its course through the mails, is handled eight times, on an average. This means the service handles 12,000,000 letters every hour of the day and night, and 75 per cent of all letters are handled during the rush hours from 5 to 8 p. m."

PASS IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, Dec. 18.—By a vote of 295 to 41 the house passed the Johnson immigration bill, as amended, to prohibit all immigration for a period of one year. The bill originally called for a two-year prohibition.

The bill now goes to the senate, and predictions are made that it will meet with strong opposition in that body.

POSTAL MEN BLAMED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Postmaster General Burleson blames a thirty million dollar deficit in his department on wage increases and now he blames the postal employes' unions for defeating his recommendation that rates on drop letters be reduced from 2 cents to 1 cent.

PRINTERS MAKE GAINS.

Colorado Springs, Col., Dec. 18.—The Typographical union has raised rates to $41.50 a week for day work and $44.50 for night work.

BUSINESS MEN FAVOR HUGE COTTON STRIKE

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 18.—Business men who continually denounce strikes by workers, and demand the passage of "can't-strike" legislation, have agreed with cotton growers to launch a huge cotton strike next year.

At a conference of southern bankers, merchants and farmers in this city a cut in 1921 cotton production was agreed to.

The conference declared that no farmer shall plant to cotton the coming year more than 33 1-3 per cent of his lands under actual cultivation in order that a 50 per cent reduction in yield may be made effective. Compliance with the strike decision will be made effective mainly by bankers and merchants, who will refuse credit to any farmer who refuses to strike. State executive committees will organize the various cotton states with voting or school districts as the unit.

Land owners are asked to share in whatever crops may be raised on their lands on a percentage basis and not require any fixed sum or pounds of cotton for rent.

The public press, law makers and publicists treat this general strike of cotton growers in a manner that contrasts with a strike of wage earners who are forced to suspend work that their living or working standards may not be reduced.

In the case of the cotton farmers there is no hue and cry for legislation to compel them to work against their will, even though the farmers announce that their strike is for the purpose of increasing the price they will receive for their product.

SAYS DEBTS ARE LOST.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 18.—The billions of dollars loaned by the United States to allies during the war are lost to this country, is the opinion of Professor David, economist at the University of Michigan.

"Europe cannot send us gold, and the only manner in which our former allies can pay is in goods," he said. "Foreign goods of sufficient quantity to pay the interest on the debt, if dumped on our market each year, would mean ruin to American industry.

"We have granted European nations credit of $5,500,000,000 since the war. This partly is the cause for the great inflation of bank credit that exists in America today. Our manufacturers have sent goods to Europe, secured by credit in the banks of this country. If our bankers demanded payment it would mean thousands of bankruptcies in Europe and America. Our bankers must be content to leave these loans on their books."

BEEF SALES ARE FAKE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—"Prices of cattle as well as wholesale prices of beef, in all grades up to the prime grades, are lower today than since 1911, yet the consumer is paying virtually war-time prices for these grades of beef," declared Frank B. McClain, state fair price commissioner.

"If there ever was a class of merchants," said the commissioner, "who justly could be charged with extorting almost criminal profits from the public, it is the retail meat dealer of today.

"The flaringly proclaimed 'slashing reductions' of many of these merchants is accompanied by the substitution of an inferior quality of beef animal. Instead of selling fairly good beeves, they sell the flesh of old cows, bologna bulls, cripples or defectives which barely pass examination by federal inspectors and inspectors of the state veterinary department. It is almost impossible for the average purchaser to detect such practices, for there are as many grades of beef as there were colors in Joseph's coat."

OFFER HOUSING PLAN.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The senate committee on reconstruction makes these recommendations to relieve the housing shortage:

"Amendment of the transportation act to check issuance of 'ex parte' orders by the interstate commerce commission.

"Abolition of the 'cost plus' contract system and establishment by states and cities of trade schools for building apprentices.

"Creation of a federal consulting bureau.

"Revision of the tax system to encourage investment in homes and to grant for a limited period tax exemption to real estate mortgages.

"Broadening of the home loan bank bill, and consolidation of all federal thrift activities under the postal savings branch of the post office department."

EAT SAW DUST AND PORK.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 18.—A wage reduction of 25 per cent for its unorganized employes is announced by the Wolverine Brass company. The company justifies its act by the claim that the price of lumber and pork has been reduced. The workers agree that the price paid to farmers for their pork has been reduced, but retailers seem to be unaware of this fact.

The workers ask the company if its reference to lumber implies that they shall eat saw dust the coming winter.

OPPOSE LAND SPECULATION.

Berlin, Germany, Dec. 18.—Six large groups of organized workers have formed a committee of action to urge a housing law. The first demand is that land be freed from speculation. The government is asked to put land in the proximity of the towns at the disposal of the public, and demand is made for a public official who, in co-operation with the trade unions, shall take the necessary measures to build workers' dwellings.

TAX LAW ILLEGAL.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 18.—The state supreme court has set aside the Alabama act of 1915 which taxes fire insurance companies doing business in cities and towns of 10,000 population and over in this state one-half of 1 per cent on premiums collected. The act sought to create a pension and relief fund for firemen and the widows and orphans of firemen in these municipalities.

THANKS, AWFULLY!

New York, Dec. 18.—"The unions have done too much good to be allowed to be run into the ground. With good leadership they should continue to prosper," says the Engineering and Mining Journal.

"OPEN SHOP" POLICY HIDES TRICKY PLAN

Baltimore, Dec. 18.—The "open shop" term is a veil for concealing a dishonest scheme on the part of capitalists to prevent labor unions from functioning and to prevent collective bargaining, declared Dr. John A. Ryan, of the Catholic university, in an address before the Johns Hopkins social science club. The speaker flayed the tactics of those employers who have adopted the attitude that "the worker must be put back where he belongs."

Dr. Ryan characterized the methods of those employers as "a movement for the open shop plus," and "plus," he contended, merely means coercing labor by economic fear, a method effective only in times of business depression.

"A certain amount of industrial democracy is needed if we are to come nearer to industrial peace," said the speaker, who distinguished between this thought and government control of industries with bureaucratic management.

"It is necessary to create genuine interest in the laborer's work," he said, "and it is gross stupidity for us to fail to develop the powers of the worker."

Dr. Ryan emphasized that workers should be guaranteed the right of collective bargaining, with the privilege of calling in their champions from outside the plant in which they may be employed.

MEAT PACKERS' BIG PROFIT.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In urging legislation to control the meat packing industry, Senator Kenyon quoted figures from the federal trade commission which showed net profits of the five great packers for the years 1912 to 1917, inclusive. These packers are Armour, Swift, Cudahy, Wilson and Morris. The net profits in the three years before the war—1912, 1913 and 1914—was $59,510,000. The net profits in the three war years—1915, 1916 and 1917—was $182,260,000.

"That the figures are not substantially denied as respects Swift & Co.," said Senator Kenyon, "is shown by the fact that Mr. Weld, representing that company, admits that its profits during the war years increased beyond the pre-war level by 176 per cent, while the commission, on the same basis, shows the increase as 180 per cent.

"Some examples of profit may be shown. For instance the federal trade commission claim in their report that the Omaha stock yards made a profit in 1916 on hay of $227,-861.08; that is, a net profit. That is one of the small ways in which the stock men have suffered abuse in the stock yards, being compelled to take the hay and other feed furnished there at prices on which the stock yards have netted on hay from $80 to $90 a ton in many instances."

WAR LAWS REPEALED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—By a vote of 324 yeas and no nays, the house repealed the war laws. The bill now goes to the senate and must be approved by the president.

In urging the repeal of the food law, Congressman Huddleston of Alabama made this reference to the injunction issued last November against striking miners:

"The governmental pledge of faith, so far as an honorable government can pledge its faith, that this law was not intended to apply and would not be enforced against workers who in good faith agreed with each other to quit work in order to better their condition or preserve their existing condition, was violated.

"I was induced to support this law upon the faith of these false promises and therefore I am especially interested in its termination.

"Under this law a farcical court proceeding was conducted which has done more to undermine the faith of a great many patriotic people of the United States in their government than any other thing that has occurred within a generation.

"Enough of such governmental blunders would destroy the faith of the people in their institutions, and I want to make it impossible for such atrocities to be committed."

WOULD OUST MINERS.

Williamson, W. Va., Dec. 18.—Coal owners who have evicted striking miners from company houses are now attempting to oust them from tents furnished by the union. The miners leased ground for this purpose and the coal barons claim the land belongs to them. The miners are sheltering their wives and children from wintry blasts but this is nothing to the coal owners, when workers insist on joining a union.

Another attack on the miners is shown in Governor Cornwall's request to the state health commissioner that sanitary conditions in the tent colony be investigated. The miners suggest to the governor that the sanitary conditions are more healthful than when they were forced to live in company houses and work for wages that made it impossible to maintain living standards, a condition ignored by him.

COAL RECORDS BROKEN.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Production of both anthracite and bituminous coal reached a new high-water mark for the year during the week of December 4, according to a statement by the geological survey, which shows the output for the week to have been 12,757,000 tons of anthracite. The week's soft coal production has been exceeded only four times since the survey has been recording the weekly output, three of which were in 1918 and one last year.

LEATHER WORKERS JAILED.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Judge Denis E. Sullivan has maintained his record as an injunction judge by jailing two members of the Leather Workers' union for violating his order against picketing. One of the unionists was jailed for 75 days and the other for 150 days.

NON-UNIONISTS STRIKE.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 18.—Non-union barbers employed in a large shop in this city are on strike for a living wage. They have been petted and jollied by every cheap wage advocate, but the barbers find that this is a poor substitute for the necessaries of life.

SHORT 6,000 DWELLINGS.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 18.—Municipal officials report that this city lacks 6,000 dwellings and that there are 24,000 persons without homes.

ACTIVE WAR AGAINST REACTION URGED BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS

Washington, Dec. 18.—With suggestions how the A. F. of L. can be of service in the fight against reaction, President Gompers has informed state federations of labor that "it is needless for me to assure you that the A. F. of L. will co-operate." President Gompers' letter follows:

"Reaction in many quarters is rampant. It is threatened that efforts will be made to have legislatures of all the states enact compulsory laws with compulsory labor provisions. It may be attempted in the legislature of your state. Having this thought in mind, it seems to me that I should address a communication to you and also to the officers of the other state federations of labor affiliated with the A. F. of L. to urge upon you and your colleagues to be alert and on guard so that the forces of labor may use every endeavor at their command to prevent the enactment by the state legislatures of laws that would enslave the workers and to prevent the nullifying of existing laws that conserve the rights and liberties of all the people.

"It is needless for me to assure you that the A. F. of L. will co-operate in every way within its power with your state federation of labor in its work along these lines.

"The A. F. of L. can be of service by urging the workers of your state to take an active part in the battle against reaction, by the distribution of literature among them, by forming corps of four-minute speakers in every city and town where there are trade unions, and by presenting the whole truth to the people generally.

"Resistance to tyranny, in whatever form expressed, is a moral obligation on the American labor movement.

"Triumph for the principles of democracy is the ideal of organized labor.

"Service in the cause of justice is the keystone of the A. F. of L.

"This service is freely tendered wherever it may be needed to defend the American concept of freedom for the people as declared in the constitution of the United States."

REFUSE WAGE INCREASE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 18. — Anthracite coal owners have notified mine workers that a general wage increase will not be granted, but that individual cases of rate inequality will be considered.

The miners are asking for general increases, a $6 minimum for day labor and a universal eight-hour day.

The coal owners' decision is the culmination of a series of dramatic incidents following the award of a wage commission several months ago. An unauthorized strike followed this award, and when the strike ended President Wilson called the coal owners and miners in conference to adjust matters. The two parties failed to agree on a definition of the term "inequalities," used by the president. The coal owners insisted that the president meant inequalities in the commission's award, and the miners insisted that it meant all inequalities. The matter was referred to Secretary of Labor Wilson, who made a rule that was accepted by both parties. After much time was consumed, the coal owners now refuse to consider increases. They say the cost of living is being lowered.

PITTSBURGH'S "HOG TROUGH."

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 18.—The indictment of public officials in this city in connection with election frauds in "the strip" recalls a reference to that portion of the city by an eminent sociologist as "the hog trough of Pittsburgh."

In area "the strip" is about three-fifths of a square mile and is bordered by railroad tracks and the Allegheny river. It has an estimated population of 20,000 persons.

A survey of "the strip" was made by social agencies just before the great war, and in the report this reference is made to conditions in a city that boasts of its democracy:

"One sees sin and shame and poverty and cruelty; he hears the wail of the wearied worker, the sob of the broken-hearted mother, the cry of neglected children; he smells the reek of congested quarters, the stench of stables and outlawed privy wells; he tastes the grime and dirt that he must inhale in breathing; he touches the springs of the district politics and finds it a corrupt machine."

WORK NEEDED TO END WARS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Wars have not ended, and it will be a "continuing labor" to accomplish that purpose is the view expressed by President Wilson in authorizing the American minister to Norway to accept the Noble peace prize on his behalf.

"If there was but one such prize or if it were to be the last I could not, of course, accept it," said the president. "For mankind has not yet been rid of the unspeakable horror of war. I am convinced that our generation has, despite its wounds, made notable progress. But it is the better part of wisdom to consider our work as only begun. It will be a continuing labor. In the indefinite course of years before us there will be abundant opportunity for others to distinguish themselves in the crusade against hate and fear and war."

LOW WAGES INJURE U. S.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In urging higher wage standards for employes of the forest service, Chief Forester Greeley says, in his annual report, that resignations last year has threatened to demoralize the service.

"The real injury from low salaries is not to employes of the government, who can take care of themselves by seeking other positions but to the government itself."

The report states that capable woodsmen can no longer be secured at pre-war rates and that filling their places with unseasoned men may be responsible for fire losses greater than the cost of capable men.

ROADS EARN LESS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Reports to the interstate commerce commission from practically all the large railroads indicate that the roads as a whole fell considerably short in October of earning that month's pro rata share of a year's income that will provide 6 per cent interest to stockholders.

Under the Cummins-Esch law the roads have a free hand in spending money and if their income is not sufficient the law provides that the government shall make good the deficit to stockholders.

WOODEN COACHES A MENACE.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The menace of wooden passenger coaches is referred to in the annual report of the interstate commerce commission. Congress is urged to compel railroads to use steel cars in all passenger train service and to prohibit the use of wooden coaches between or in front of steel coaches.

ANTI-JAP LAW UPHELD.

Vasalia, Cal., Dec. 18.—Contention of Japanese land holders that California's anti-alien land law is unconstitutional was denied by Superior Judges Wallace and Allen. The Japs claimed that the law does not conform with American-Japanese treaties.

WOULD ENLARGE GRAFT BY ATTACKING UNIONS

Washington, Dec. 18.—Vice President Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad and other railroad executives who are supporting his anti-union policy, are endeavoring to prepare the public for the announcement that the Pennsylvania and other railroads have disposed of their shops and transferred their general repair and construction business to outside concerns, such as the Baldwin Locomotive works, said Wm. H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists.

"This is a brazen attempt to evade the provisions of the transportation act," said the unionist. "Through a system of interlocking directorates these outside concerns are controlled by the same interests that dominate the railroads. But these outside concerns are not subject to the restrictions thrown around the railroads by the transportation act.

"If the Pennsylvania and the other roads are permitted to consummate their plans, they will pay these concerns whatever they see fit for doing the work which can now be performed in the railroad shops.

"Evidence now in the possession of the interstate commerce commission throws light on the character of the contracts contemplated. Certain roads have already entered into agreements with Baldwin's for the construction of equipment on the cost-plus basis. This is the same vicious system which produced so many scandals during the war, when it was being used by the government in its dealings with certain contractors. The government has abandoned it, but some of the railroads have taken it up.

"This is a matter of the most vital public concern. Under the Cummins-Esch act the people must pay the railroads' bill. Extravagant contracts are, therefore, a direct tax on the commerce of the nation.

"This policy of granting fat contracts to concerns controlled by 'insiders' is not a new one with the Pennsylvania, as Mr. Atterbury knows. In fact, the conduct of the company has been so scandalous in this particular that the interstate commerce commission some years ago, was compelled to conduct an investigation which developed amazing graft. At that time the officials responsible were robbing the stockholders.

"A return to the old practices now would not necessarily affect the stockholders' dividends, because these dividends are practically guaranteed under the Cummins-Esch act, which directs the interstate commerce commission to fix freight and passenger rates high enough to meet all the expense of the railroads and leave a sufficient surplus to pay 5 1-2 or 6 per cent on the investment.

"Such practices would, however, enable the directors of the Pennsylvania, who are interested in Baldwin's and other beneficiaries of the cost-plus contracts, to 'milk' the public."

LIVING COSTS IN ITALY.

Milan, Italy, Dec. 18.—In statistics printed by the municipal bulletin it is shown there is an increase of 276.5 per cent in the cost of living from 1914 to 1920. Had the pre-war standard been maintained, the increase would be 341.13 per cent, says the bulletin.

In 1914 the cost for maintaining a workman's family of five persons (man, wife, one child over 10 and two under 10), was 41 lire, or $7.77 in American money. In 1920 the cost of bare necessities had risen to 155 lire, or $9.49, and the cost of maintaining pre-war standards to 181 lire, or $34.89.

ARBITRATION IN SWEDEN.

Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 18.—A central arbitration board has been created by parliament. The board consists of seven persons—three appointed by the government, two by the council of the employers' association and two by the workmen's national council.

The object of the board is to render it easier for workmen and employers to have collective agreements correctly interpreted, thus obviating recourse to lockouts and strikes. Appeals to the board are to be voluntary, and the decision of the board will be final.

UNION BUYS HOME.

New York, Dec. 18.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has joined the list of international organizations that own their own homes. The garment workers have purchased a four-story building in this city for $35,000 and will expend $50,000 in fitting it for the various activities of this organization.

ACCEPT 1920 WAGE RATE.

Denver, Dec. 18.—Building trades unions and contractors in this city have agreed to continue the 1920 wage rate during 1921. These workers are strongly organized, hence the absence of wage reduction talk.

AUTO MECHANICS UNITE.

Vallejo, Cal., Dec. 18.—Auto mechanics employed here have organized and are affiliated with the trade union movement.